

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



MAURA D. CORRIGAN, DIRECTOR

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The **Department of Human Services (DHS)** assists children, families, and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable, and self-supporting through the distribution of temporary public assistance and service programs in every county statewide. It administers the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant, and the federal Food Assistance Program, as well as other state and federally funded assistance programs, including the Family Independence Program, which is known as cash assistance; State Disability Assistance; State Emergency Relief; and the IV-D Child Support Program. Department staff members also determine eligibility for Medicaid and other medical assistance programs jointly funded by the federal government and the state and administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The department is committed to integrity in the state's welfare system while also meeting its mission to serve the state's vulnerable children, adults, and families. The department is working aggressively to ensure that the state's limited resources are available to those who are truly needy by eliminating fraud, waste and abuse through investigative and preventive measures.

In addition, the department provides other services to children, adults, and families in the state, including those related to children's protective services, adoption, and foster care. The focus is on improving longstanding issues in the state's child welfare system and ensuring permanency for vulnerable children. In July 2011, the department and the national advocacy organization, Children's Rights, modified a 2008 federal lawsuit settlement to establish new benchmarks for reform and strengthen support for families and children in foster care. DHS has made substantial progress in the foster care system since then. The department invested in a new computer system to track child welfare information.

Services to adults include protective services, adult community placement, home help services, and assistance with health, housing, transportation, and educational needs. Family services include referral for employment and training, independent living services providing housing assistance, family planning, counseling, health-related services, volunteer services, refugee assistance, transitional services to youths exiting foster care and out-of-home placement, migrant services, refugee services, Native American services, and domestic violence prevention and treatment programs. These services are designed to help strengthen family life and to help families become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

Department staff and contractors deliver a wide range of service programs for families and children of Michigan. They include protective and preventive services for children who are neglected, abused, or exploited, including foster care placement. The agency provides a range of institutional and noninstitutional social services for the care, training, and treatment of neglected and delinquent children committed to the department as state wards and temporary court wards. Such services include casework and counseling, adoption, foster care, and the operation of centers for institutional residential care and group homes. In addition, DHS offers consultation on general child welfare problems to private and public agencies throughout the state and offers services through an inter-state compact.

The department also oversees the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, Children's Trust Fund, Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing, Michigan Community Service Commission and Disability Determination Service.

The department director is its chief executive officer and is appointed by the governor. The administrative divisions of DHS include the Director's Office, Chief Deputy Director, and directors for Adult and Child Welfare Field Operations, Financial Services, Legal Services, Children's Services and Policy and Compliance.

The DHS director directly oversees a number of areas, including the offices of Communications, Legislative Services and Family Advocate, and the deputy directors for Legal Services and Children's Services.

The chief deputy director has the administrative responsibility for directors responsible for Field Operations, the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing, Bureau of Technology and Project Services, Office of Human Resources, Bureau of Organizational Services and Policy and Compliance, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer for Financial and Administrative Services. Service delivery through the department's network of field offices is administered through the deputy directors for Adult and Child Welfare Field Operations and the deputy director for Children's Services. The Chief Financial Officer and deputy director for Human Resources administer entities dealing with matters such as personnel, contracts, and child support.

The deputy directors for Adult and Child Welfare Field Operations have administrative responsibility for overseeing the operation of cash assistance programs through local offices and providing all services and assistance payment programs to eligible clients. This component of the department is also administratively responsible for the Child Welfare Training Institute and certain technology programs. The deputy director for Children's Services is responsible for administering child welfare programs in six large counties, as well as administering the program centrally.

The department administers services through a network of county and district offices, staff stationed in hospitals and related facilities, and staff stationed in schools to promote a greater parental involvement in child education and enhance self-sufficiency by establishing a human service delivery within the context of the school building.

The department also includes the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, Children's Trust Fund, Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant ad hoc committee, and Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

